

NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD Starrett-Evans Rule Site 6555 Fain Street, North Charleston, South Carolina

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announces a 30-day period for citizens to comment on a potential Voluntary Cleanup Contract concerning the Starrett Evans Rule Division Site. The contract will be between the Ginn Development Company, LLC, and DHEC. The contracts will allow the Ginn Development Company to buy the Starrett-Evans Rule property as a "Brownfields" property. Brownfields may have environmental pollution resulting from past practices. Ginn Development Company did not create the pollution but wishes to buy the property and voluntarily clean it up for reuse.

If the contract is implemented, DHEC will not hold Ginn Development Company responsible for pre-existing contamination in exchange for doing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Program. Under State law, the new owner will be protected from being responsible to anyone affected by the contamination. The contract does not remove any responsibility that former owners or operators have as a result of the contamination.

The property being purchased by the Ginn Development Company consists of approximately 13 acres identified by tax map numbers # 475-00-00-007 and 475-00-00-010. The property borders other businesses to the east and south, and is next to residential property along Eagle Drive to the west. The property was first developed as a tape measure manufacturing facility in 1972. It is likely that soil and groundwater contamination may have resulted from various industrial processes used during the plant's operation.

The Ginn Development Company intends to transfer the property to the County of Charleston for use as a Disaster Preparedness Storage Warehouse and The Hope Center. The Hope Center will be a facility to which the County will transport disabled citizens to work in such endeavors as third-party logistics, sorting dry goods, baking, and woodworking.

Due to the potential for environmental pollution, the Ginn Development Company wishes to enter into a contract with DHEC's Voluntary Cleanup Program. Under the proposed contract, the Ginn Development Company will test samples of soil, groundwater, sediment, and surface water. If contamination is found, the Ginn Development Company will be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment based on the laboratory findings.

DHEC promotes redevelopment of Brownfields for beneficial reuse. Public comments on proposed Brownfields contracts help DHEC balance the environmental and redevelopment issues to be in the best interest of the state. The proposed contracts are available at http://www.scdhec.gov/lwm/html/public.asp. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

Any comments or questions may be directed to Jerry Stamps, Project Manger, email <u>stampsjm@dhec.sc.gov</u>, telephone (803) 896-4285, or Craig Dukes, Brownfields Public Information

Coordinator, SCDHEC – Bureau of Land and Waste Management, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201; email <u>dukescv@dhec.sc.gov</u>, TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the Starrett-Evans Rule Site proposed contract until January 24, 2008.